

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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**ARIZONA SCHOOLS CHIEF TOM HORNE RELEASES FIRST TIME
ARIZONA LEARNS PROFILES FOR SMALL AND ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS**
*55 schools out of 71 are underperforming charters – Sup. Horne will turn over
information to Charter Board*

PHOENIX (Wednesday, November 3, 2004) -- Arizona Schools Chief Tom Horne released today Arizona Learns profiles for small and alternative schools. This is the first time small schools and alternative schools have received profiles under Arizona's accountability system. Out of 312 small schools, 71 are underperforming, and of those 71, 55 of them are charter schools.

A small school is defined as a school that has 16 or less students per grade level.

An alternative school is a school that serves "at risk" populations of students, as defined by the Arizona State Board of Education.

Arizona has 136 alternative schools and 129 of them have been profiled as performing and 7 as underperforming. There are 312 small schools receiving profiles: 17 are excellent; 17 are highly performing; 207 performing and 71 underperforming.

"The data about these 55 charter schools is being turned over to the Charter Board for consideration regarding continuation of their charters. We have a number of really excellent charter schools in this state. The leaders of the Charter movement want to maintain high quality and not continue schools that are to academically failing their students," Superintendent Horne stated.

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